



COALITION FOR HEALTHCARE COMMUNICATION

May 26, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Pitts  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
The Honorable Frank Pallone  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
The Honorable Diana DeGette  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Sent by E-mail

Dear Chairman Upton, Ranking Member Pallone and Representatives DeGette, Pitts and Green:

On behalf of The Coalition for Healthcare Communication and our approximately 10,000 employees, I want to thank you for including a provision in the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6) exempting medical textbooks and peer-reviewed journals from burdensome reporting

requirements. Section 3041 of your bill, a modified version of Representatives Burgess and DeFazio's' Protect Continuing Physician Education and Patient Care Act – H.R. 293, is critical to ensuring high-quality information gets in the hands of physicians to inform the best possible medical care for Americans.

The Coalition for Healthcare Communication strongly supports Section 3041, as we believe that Representatives Burgess and DeFazio correctly have recognized the intent of Congress and its educational exclusion to the reporting requirement under the Sunshine Act. We also strongly support the underlying congressionally conceived principles of transparency in the Sunshine Act, and agree that the exclusion to the reporting requirement for educational materials that directly benefit patients is appropriate. Peer-reviewed medical textbooks, medical journals, journal reprints, and continuing medical education are important tools which allow physicians to be better informed and therefore provide better care to patients. A 2001 Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ ) study factsheet noted that “[i]t may take as long as one or two decades for original research to be put into routine clinical practice. Thus, the translation of research findings into sustainable improvements in clinical practice and patient outcomes remains a substantial obstacle to improving the quality of health care.” We applaud Dr. Burgess, Congressman DeFazio and the Committee for recognizing that there should be no unnecessary delay to improving quality of care and for including this common sense clarification to the Sunshine Act which properly reflects the original intent of Congress.

We thank you for including this important provision which accurately recognizes the need to reduce barriers for physicians to provide the best possible care to their patients.

Sincerely,

John Kamp  
Executive Director  
Coalition for Healthcare Communication

Cc: Representatives Michael Burgess and Peter DeFazio